

RAISED BILL NO. 5203

AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL COLLECTIVE BARGAINING ARBITRATION AND THE APPOINTMENT OF ARBITRATION PANEL.

Senator Prague and Representative Zalaski, my name is Ray Shea and a permanent member of the Board of Mediation and Arbitration. This proposed Raised Bill as noted above will change the entire process for which the current Statute was meant to contain and contrary to what was intended. The current Statute provides a panel of the (10) members of which five members are represented by Management and five by Labor. These ten members are chosen to select candidates interested in serving as Neutral Arbitrators. Candidate wishing to serve, must submit resumes submitted to the Board. Each resume is perused and selection made for interview by the panel pursuant to our Statutes. Each of the prospects appear before the panel and are vetted with subscribed question from panel members. By unanimous agreement of the panel Neutral Arbitrators are selected by virtue the their respective responses and selected by knowledge of the Municipal Employee Relations Act. By Law, the panel is up to twenty (20) Arbitrators to serve as Interest Arbitrators The panel To this date, after eight years in existence has yet to reach the threshold of twenty as we have yet to feel fit not to accept those not fully aware of our Employee Relations Act. Furthermore, having a panel exclusively limited to Arbitrators removes the Advocacy of the respective parties involved in the Arbitration process. The current statute is, in fact working extremely well and needs no change from the current. Therefore, we respectfully suggest the rejection of Raised Bill 5203.